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Busou Renkin

By Watsuki Nobuhiro

Chapter 9: Another New Life

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Credits

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Editor: Yadi-chan

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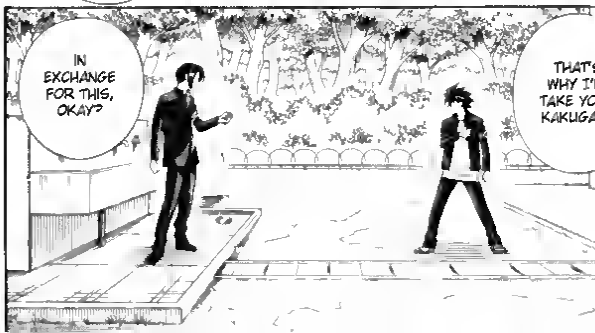
Qcer: MoonShadow

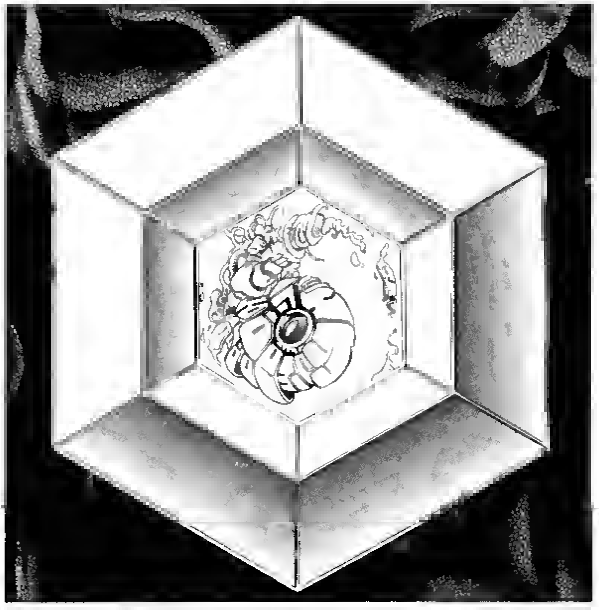
I'M WAITING
3 MINUTES TO RETURN!
SFX: GNUP
SFX: BASHI
THE BUTTER FLY MASKED CREATOR OF THE HOMUN-CULI
AT THIS POINT, I'M NOT SURE IF I HAVE ENOUGH POWER YET, BUT I CAN'T LOSE. I HAVE TO CATCH HIM!
BUSOU—

THAT IS...
STOP!
YES, HERE IT IS
GFX: SMOOTH MOVEMENT

I MADE THIS FOR MYSELF JUST IN CASE SOMETHING IN THE EXPERIMENT WOULD GO WRONG
THIS, IT'S THE CURE TO RID THE BODY OF THE HONTAI*
SO, THIS IS ACTUALLY VERY RARE
*HONTAI: LITERALLY MEANS "REAL FORM" OR "SUBSTANCE." THEY ARE THE FETUS-LIKE ALCHEMIC PARASITES

BUT WITHOUT THIS, THAT FEMALE FRIEND OF YOURS IS GOING TO BECOME A HOMUNCULUS IN 2 DAYS
THE LAST EXPERIMENT WAS FINISHED LONG AGO, SO I DON'T NEED THIS ANYMORE


IN EXCHANGE FOR THIS, OKAY?
THAT'S WHY I'LL TAKE YOUR KAKUGANE

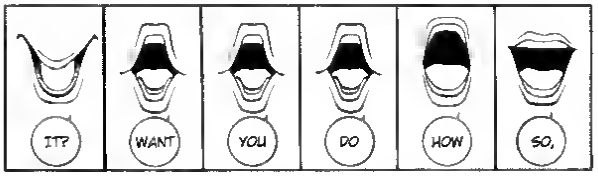


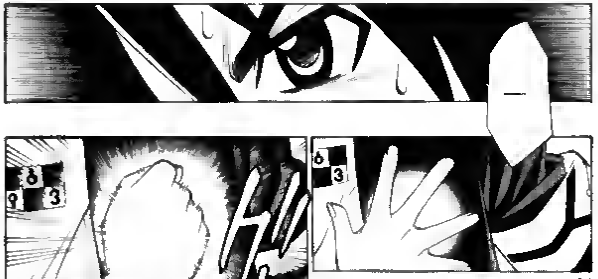
Chapter 09

Another New Life

伸宏
和月

I'VE HEARD STORIES ABOUT IT BEFORE SO, FOR SOME TIME NOW, I'VE WANTED TO MAKE IT THE NEXT SUBJECT IN MY RESEARCH.
THERE'S STILL ANOTHER ELEMENT OF RENKIN-JUSTU RELATING TO HOMUNCULI
IF YOU SAY YOU WANT IT LATER, AS IT TAKES TIME TO SYNTHESIZE IT, IT WOULD BE TOO LATE TO ASK, RIGHT?
WHAT? IF YOU DON'T WANT IT, THEN I'LL THROW THIS DOWN THE SEWER


IT?
WANT
YOU
DO
HOW
SO,


—
8
9
3
6
3

EFX: CLENCH

I KNEW YOU'D SAY THAT
ONCE YOU TAKE OUT YOUR WEAPON, YOU'LL BE AT A DISADVANTAGE

NO WAY!
I CAN NEVER GIVE THAT TO YOU.

I TOO THINK MY LIFE IS THE MOST IMPORTANT

YOU'RE WRONG!
IF I GIVE UP THE KAKUGANE I'LL DIE FOR SURE
?
EVEN IF I GOT THE PILL, I CAN'T GET IT TO MISS TOKIKO
WHAT DOES THAT MEAN? LET'S HEAR IT.

I'VE ONCE BEEN STABBED IN THE HEART BY A HOMUNCULUS THAT YOU CREATED— AND DIED.
BUT MISS TOKIKO REPLACED MY HEART WITH THIS KAKUGANE, REVIVING ME.
SO THIS KAKUGANE INSIDE MY CHEST ALSO HOLDS MY NEW LIFE.

SFX: SINISTER SMILE

SFX: PANEL ABOVE: (WHITE BUBBLED) PANTING (BLACK) LOUD HEARTBEATS PANE BELOW: GYPAA

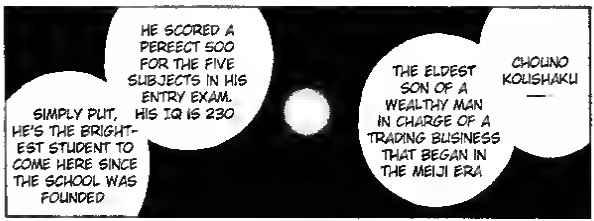
!
DO YOU REALIZE THAT IT'S YOUR FAULT THAT MANY PEOPLE HAVE LOST THEIR LIVES, BECAUSE OF THE HOMUNCULI YOU'VE CREATED?
SFX: TENSION
YOU'RE BEING TOO SELFISH!
HOW DARE YOU SAY YOU WANT A NEW LIFE——

!
OH NO! I MOVED WITHOUT THINKING...
Cough
AH!
SFX: SMACK!
SFX: THUD
?
MISS TOKIKO!
I DON'T WANT THIS BUG SPRAY,
TOO BAD! THIS IS FAKE.
THE REAL CURE SHOULD BE AN INJECTION INTO THE HONTAI.
Deceived!!!
THE DRUG TO CURE HOMUNCULUS
IT'S THAT!

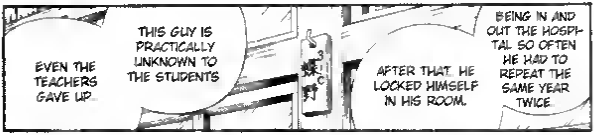
BUT I FEEL THAT SOMETHING IS WRONG.
HE'S SUCH A WEAKLING EVEN THOUGH HE'S THE LEADER.
GOOD JOB FOR CATCHING THE BUTTER-FLY-MASK.

OF COURSE
THIS GUY ISN'T LIKE ME, HE DOESN'T HAVE TONS OF BATTLING EXPERIENCE
BESIDES THE ABILITY TO MAKE HOMUNCULI, HE'S TOTALLY HUMAN

I'VE ALREADY GOTTEN IT FROM THE SCHOOL.
ABOUT HIS PERSONAL INFO,

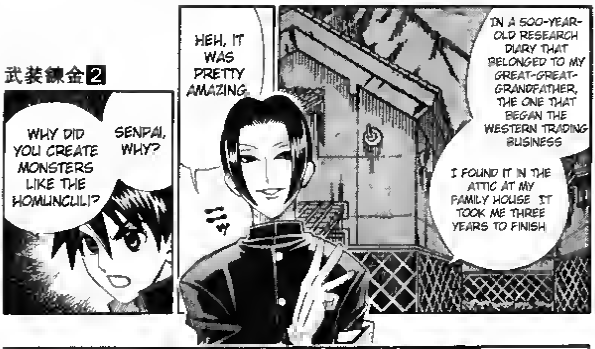

HE SCORED A PEREECT 500 FOR THE FIVE SUBJECTS IN HIS ENTRY EXAM. HIS IQ IS 230
SIMPLY PUT, HE'S THE BRIGHT-EST STUDENT TO COME HERE SINCE THE SCHOOL WAS FOUNDED
THE ELDEST SON OF A WEALTHY MAN IN CHARGE OF A TRADING BUSINESS THAT BEGAN IN THE MEIJI ERA
CHOUNO KOUSHAKU

WITHOUT ANY CURE, HIS IMMUNE SYSTEM HAS BEEN WEAKENING SLOWLY, AND THE ONLY THING TO DO IS TO WAIT FOR DEATH.
THEN?
SOON AFTER HE ENTERED THE SCHOOL, HE CAME DOWN WITH AN UNKNOWN ILLNESS.

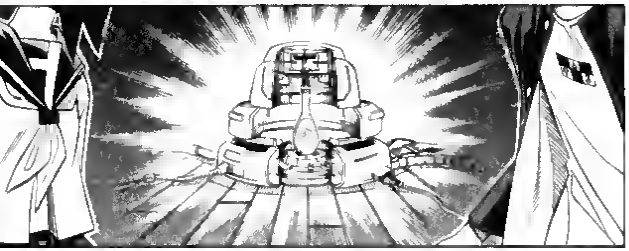

EVEN THE TEACHERS GAVE UP.
THIS GUY IS PRACTICALLY UNKNOWN TO THE STUDENTS
AFTER THAT, HE LOCKED HIMSELF IN HIS ROOM.
BEING IN AND OUT THE HOSPITAL SO OFTEN HE HAD TO REPEAT THE SAME YEAR TWICE.

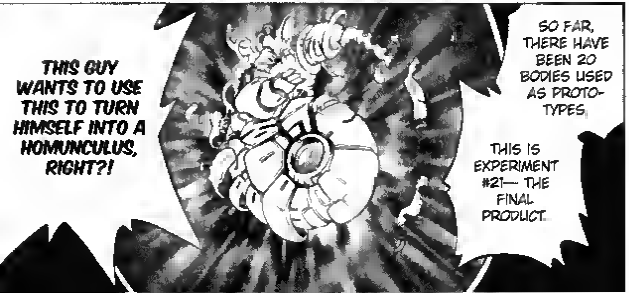
WITH THAT SAID
ISN'T HE SUCH A PITY?

A QUESTION
YOU, WHERE DID YOU FIND OUT ABOUT RENKIN-JUSTU
HOW TO MAKE A HOMUNCULUS?

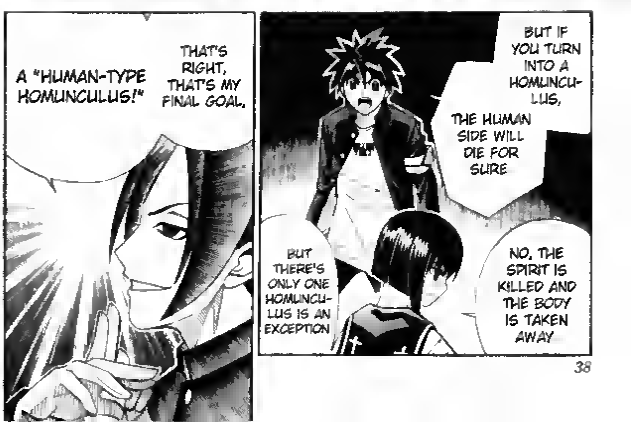

WHY DID YOU CREATE MONSTERS LIKE THE HOMUNCULI?
SENPAI, WHY?
HEH, IT WAS PRETTY AMAZING.
IN A 500-YEAR-OLD RESEARCH DIARY THAT BELONGED TO MY GREAT-GREAT-GRANDFATHER, THE ONE THAT BEGAN THE WESTERN TRADING BUSINESS
I FOUND IT IN THE ATTIC AT MY FAMILY HOUSE. IT TOOK ME THREE YEARS TO FINISH.

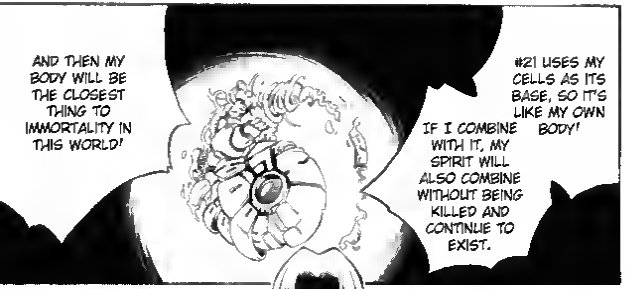
LOOK OVER THERE— YOU CAN PROBABLY GUESS WHY.
ABOUT THAT, WE WILL UNDERSTAND SOON.




THIS GUY WANTS TO USE THIS TO TURN HIMSELF INTO A HOMUNCULUS, RIGHT?!
SO FAR, THERE HAVE BEEN 20 BODIES USED AS PROTO-TYPES.
THIS IS EXPERIMENT #21— THE FINAL PRODUCT.

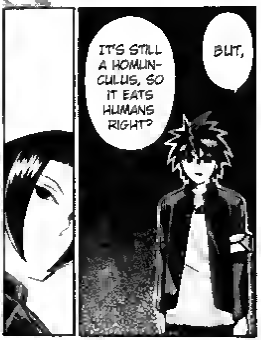
EVEN IF YOU SMASH A HOMUNCULUS INTO PIECES, ITS BODY WILL REGENERATE.
OTHER THAN THE POWER OF RENKIN-JUTSU, BEING A HOMUNCULUS IS THE CLOSEST THING TO IMMORTALITY IN THIS WORLD.
THE REAL GOAL OF THE BUTTERFLY-MASKED CREATOR IS TO ABANDON THE BODY OF A SICK HUMAN AND OBTAIN THE BODY OF AN IMMORTAL HOMUNCULUS.


A "HUMAN-TYPE HOMUNCULUS!"
THAT'S RIGHT, THAT'S MY FINAL GOAL.
BUT IF YOU TURN INTO A HOMUNCULUS,
THE HUMAN SIDE WILL DIE FOR SURE
NO, THE SPIRIT IS KILLED AND THE BODY IS TAKEN AWAY
BUT THERE'S ONLY ONE HOMUNCULUS IS AN EXCEPTION


AND THEN MY BODY WILL BE THE CLOSEST THING TO IMMORTALITY IN THIS WORLD!
#21 USES MY CELLS AS ITS BASE, SO IT'S LIKE MY OWN BODY!
IF I COMBINE WITH IT, MY SPIRIT WILL ALSO COMBINE WITHOUT BEING KILLED AND CONTINUE TO EXIST.

BUT THIS HUMAN-TYPE HOMUNCULUS IS A SUPER-HUMAN!
THE ANIMAL AND PLANT-TYPES ARE MERE MONSTERS,

YOU'D GO THAT FAR JUST TO LIVE?!
SO FAR, WE'VE ALREADY LOST MANY LIVES.
AND YOU'RE GOING TO SACRIFICE EVEN MORE LIVES LATER?


BUT,
IT'S STILL A HOMUNCULUS, SO IT EATS HUMANS RIGHT?

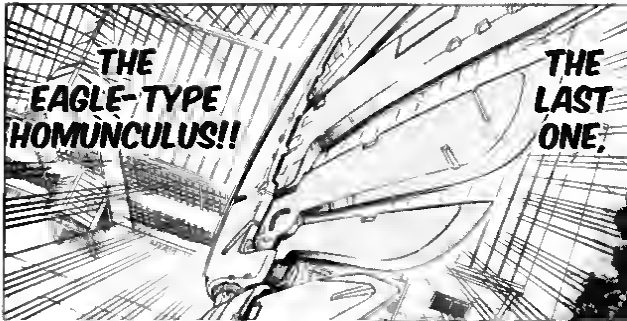
I'VE ALREADY SAID IT EARLIER, NOBODY TREASURES ANYTHING MORE THAN HIS OWN LIFE.
FOR ME TO LIVE ON, I DON'T CARE WHAT I HAVE TO DO.
TO LIVE, HUH?

IF YOU SAY YOU DON'T WANNA LIVE, THEN JUST END YOURSELF HERE.
AND WHAT ABOUT YOU?
DIDN'T YOU DIE ONCE?

TO ACCEPT SUCH AN ILL FATE AND JUST LET MY LIFE GO?
YOU'RE RESURRECTED HAPPILY, AND YOU'RE ASKING ME TO GIVE UP AND DIE.

I'M SORRY, BUT YOU MUST DIE.
!
IT'LL BE COMPLETED IN TWO DAYS!
!
NO!
SFX: REELING IN SHOCK
I'M GOING TO DESTROY THAT RIGHT NOW!
SINCE YOU CAN'T BECOME A SUPER-HUMAN
I WANT TO USE THAT TO CHANGE MYSELF FROM A CATERPILLAR INTO A BUTTERFLY!
THAT'S MY NEW LIFE!!
SFX: STRONG MOVEMENT

SFX: (WHITE) HUH?
(GRAY) BOOM.
!!!
THIS ATMOSPHERE...
THIS IS DEFINITELY...
SFX: ELECTRICITY


THE EAGLE-TYPE HOMUNCULUS!!
THE LAST ONE.

SFX: ROOM: CLING
SFX: WHAM
SFX: SEE-SAWING
Are you all right?
Master...

RENKIN WARRIOR
HOW DARE YOU DO THIS TO MY CREATOR!
SFX WAGO
THE TABLES HAVE TURNED!

WOMAN! BECOME A MONSTER AND DIE!
I WILL BECOME A SUPERHUMAN AND LIVE!
I'M GOING TO STOP YOU EITHER WAY!!
I DON'T CARE IF YOU'RE BECOMING A MONSTER OR A SUPER-HUMAN.

Character Case No. 9

Okakura Hideyuki

About Renkin-Jutsu... a synthetic science (alchemy) founded in Europe before modern times. Many Europeans tried to transmute lead into gold or create an elixir of youth, but no successes were yielded. However, it fell behind the times, and just two fields have been studied with success – the fabrication of a non-rusting body and the creation of the Kakugane.

Mutou Kazuki

He was killed by a Homunculus, but Tokiko gave him a Kakugane to replace his heart and restore his life. He's 16 years old. There is a three-year difference between him and Mahiro, his younger sister. His Busou Renkin is the "Assault Lance." (He's still thinking up a cooler name).

CHARACTERS

Tsumura Tokiko

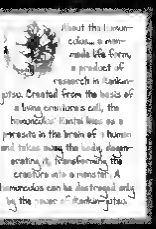
Chosen from the Renkin-jutsu specialists to become an expert in Busou Renkin (Renkin Warrior). Her Busou Renkin is the execution sickle "Valkyrie's Skirt."

The Kakugane ("Iron Core") is the essence of renkin-jutsu, assembled through the fortification of the soul-imprinted alloy. In the largest piece of the user's spirit, the kakugane is activated by instinct. The instinct of survival boosts its fusing power, the battle instinct shapes it, creating a unique weapon. Once the shape is created, the Busou Renkin's special qualities are diverse.

STORY

Tokiko, a Rankin Warrior, designates herself as a lacey-tura out a "Homunculus," a man-made monster that eats humans. Muroo Kazuki, a secon year high school student, doesn't understand, and he tries to save Tokiko but ends up being killed by the H monculus. Tokiko gives Kazuki a "Kokuuene," giving Kazuki a new life, together with the power to fight the homunculi. With his fighting instinct, Kazuki operates the Kokuuene by transforming it into a lance, crushing the homunculus. Together, Kazuki and Tokiko have decided to battle Mumushia, while Tokiko and Kazuki were scouting out, the Creator, the enemy who wears a Butterfly Mask, sets Tokiko up with the homunculi's "Honta"*, something that transforms people into monsters. Somehow they prevented it from reaching and invading Tokiko's brain, but the Honta now lives in her belly as a parasite. Tokiko will turn into a homunculus within one week, and in order to neutralize the Honta, they must capture the Creator.... Both Kazuki and Tokiko, knowing that the Creator is a third-year student at Kazuki's school, Ginsei Academy, decide to search the campus. On the forth day of the search, Kaoruzu, the first homunculus, rebels against the Creator by eating Kazuki. Because day by day the Honta continues eating, preventing Tokiko from fighting, Kazuki is forced to accept a one-on-one battle. In the middle of the battle, Kazuki becomes aware of his own Busou Rankin's special ability with the cloth, his will to fight is transformed into energy. He corners Kaoruzu to obtain information about the whereabouts of the Creator, but his power runs out and he collapses. Kazuki wakes up and sees Tokiko, worried and rushing towards him, and another defeated homunculus.

*Honta! Literally means "real form" or "substance." They are the fetus-like alchemic parasites.


About this Homunculus: a man-made life form, a product of research in Rankinjutsu. Created from the basis of a living creature's cell, the Homunculus' Honta lives as a parasite in the brain of a human and takes away the body, degenerating it. Therefore, the creator's aim: a monster. A homunculus can be destroyed only by the power of Rankinjutsu.